United Nations E/CN.6/2019/NGO/118

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
27 November 2018

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Sixty-third session
11–22 March 2019
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Statement submitted by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-20320 (E) 10/218

Please recycle

Statement

Statement of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. on Human Trafficking Education and Training Initiatives

Human trafficking is a scourge that disproportionately affects women and girls around the globe. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., has taken a stand against human trafficking and commits to leveraging its resources to increase awareness and promote advocacy among members and the communities we serve. The organization has embarked upon an educational campaign to help members and communities understand:

- What human trafficking involves;
- The human and social impact locally and globally;
- How to identify signs of illegal activity and/or possible victims;
- Reporting and referral options and opportunities;
- How to develop partnerships with local experts, law enforcement and elected and appointed officials to support development of policy and legislation to mitigate and, in time, eradicate human trafficking in our communities.

With more than 500 undergraduate and graduate chapters in 37 states and international chapters in the Bahamas, Bermuda, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada, Germany and Korea, we are mobilizing our members and are committing the resources of our Social Action Committee and Golden Alerts — a Sigma Gamma Rho communication that mobilizes our membership to address social inequities. The Golden Alert raises a call to action and provides a toolkit that gives members training, guidance and templates to effectively execute public meetings, workshops and town halls; engage in peaceful protest; and foster and support informed legislative action.

During our biennial public meeting this summer in Dallas, the Social Action Committee organized a Golden Alert panel discussion on human trafficking. Giving voice and context to this topic were representatives from: U.S. Department of Homeland Security; the mental health professional; Dallas County (Texas) Police Department; and a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and parent of a human trafficking victim.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., has a strong tradition of affecting change by engaging its members and partners to address issues of import. Our highly successful partnership efforts include:

United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on its Act Against AIDS (A3) Leadership Initiative that yielded an innovative training model, A3 (Ask, Accept, Act) for Life HIV/AIDS Prevention.

- We host free HIV/AIDS testing at regional and international sorority meetings.
- Hosted a train the trainer session as a parallel event for the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women conference. The session had approximately 60 attendees.
- More than 2,500 members receive training annually.
- To-date, 80,000 community members in 31 states in America, Canada, the Caribbean and South Korea received training from 172 trainers.
- Earned 10 million HIV/AIDS prevention and education media impressions.

- 300,000 received email communication on HIV/AIDS prevention email messages.
- Held more than 400 community events and one international event.
- The train-the-trainer model and outreach strategy has been adapted for other Center for Disease Control partner initiatives.

USA Swimming and Sigma Gamma Rho's Swim 1922 partnership is 6 years old. The initiative has been shown to have reduced drowning rates in the African American community in the United States by five per cent since its inception. The program hosts free swim clinics to promote overall health and wellness, in addition to promoting water safety. Each year we average nearly 120 swim clinics across the United States, impacting more than 20,000 adults and youth.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.'s mission since its founding in 1922 has been to enhance the quality of life for women and their families in the United States and globally through community service, civil, and social action. We look forward to establishing partnerships with other non-governmental organisations to expand our efforts to increase awareness to end human trafficking. Our membership stands at the ready to work toward the day when all women and their families are able to reach their full potential and realize unlimited opportunities.